



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of April 26, 2004

Visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers>

News from Congressman Ehlers ...

GR WWII VETERAN TO RECEIVE BELATED PURPLE HEART MEDAL FOLLOWING SATURDAY TOWN MEETING – A Grand Rapids veteran of the Pacific theater in World War II will finally receive his Purple Heart medal Saturday, more than 60 years after being wounded in battle on New Guinea, thanks to efforts by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers. The medal will be awarded at the conclusion of Congressman Ehlers' town meeting to be held at 9 a.m. at the Gerald R. Ford Museum in downtown Grand Rapids.

For more information, please view the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/042604SzudzikADV.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2004

On Monday, the House will meet at 12 noon in a Pro Forma Session.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (3 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) **H.R. 3942 - Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building Redesignation Act**
(Middletown, R.I.)
- 2) **H.Res. 399 - Honoring the life and legacy of Melvin Jones and recognizing the contributions of Lions Clubs International**
- 3) **H.Res. 578 - Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month:**
Resolves that the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the federal government, states, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 28 AND 29, 2004

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m.

Suspensions (5 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 2538 - Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. United States Courthouse Designation Act** (*Miami, Fla.*)
- 2) **H.Con.Res. 376 - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby:** Authorizes use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby qualifying races to be held on June 19, 2004.
- 3) **S. 2043 - Ronald Reagan Federal Building Designation Act** (*Harrisburg, Pa.*)
- 4) **H.Con.Res. 388 - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service:** Authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service to be held on May 15, 2004. The memorial service will honor Federal, State and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2003.
- 5) **H.R. 3170 - Increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act:** Amends the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment, and for other purposes. H.R. 3170 modernizes the 1980 definition of "eligible portfolio company" in the securities laws to enable business development companies (BDC's) to invest in publicly traded companies that need access to capital. Under the legislative proposal, any publicly traded company with a market capitalization of \$250 million or less would be an eligible portfolio company. These companies are too small to qualify for inclusion in the S&P small cap index. In addition, it would allow a small percentage of a BDC's assets to include companies with market capitalization of up to \$500 million. This legislation will help many publicly traded companies and their shareholders find growth capital.

H.R. 4181 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the increased standard deduction, and the 15-percent individual income tax rate bracket expansion, for married taxpayers filing joint returns: Eliminates the marriage penalty in the U.S. tax code.

** Possible Motions to go to Conference*

** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2004

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On April 27 ...

1861 - U.S. President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus.

1861 - West Virginia seceded from Virginia after Virginia seceded from the Union during the American Civil War.

1937 - The first U.S. Social Security checks were distributed.

On April 28 ...

1834 - The U.S. Senate voted to censure President Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

1898 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a child born in the U.S. to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen. This meant that they could not be deported under the Chinese Exclusion Act.

1908 - Automobile owners lobbied the U.S. Congress, supporting a bill that called for vehicle licensing and federal registration.

1921 - U.S. President Warren Harding named William Howard Taft as chief justice of the United States.

On April 29 ...

1974 - U.S. President Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of secretly made White House tape recordings related to the Watergate scandal.

1998 - The U.S., Canada and Mexico end tariffs on \$1 billion in NAFTA trade.

On April 30 ...

1789 - George Washington took office as first elected U.S. president.

1803 - The U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million.

1889 - George Washington's inauguration became the first U.S. national holiday.

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)